

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD UR BE

SUBJECT: SOVIET-BELGIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR GUILLOT-PINGUE, SOV DEPUTY FON TRADE MIN MANZHULO WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON FOR BRUSSELS APRI 21. DURING THREE-DAY BELGIAN VISIT MANZHULO WILL COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS AND SIGN TEN-YEAR BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION.

2. GUILLOT COMMENTED THAT TEXT OF BELGIAN-SOVIET ACCORD IS BIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO FRANCO-SOVIET AGREEMENT: SIX ARTICLES PLUS TEN-YEAR TIME FRAME. HE NOTED THAT SOVIETS HAD PROPOSED ONE ADDITIONAL PROVISION TO EFFECT THAT BELGIAN GOVT WOULD ARRANGE SPECIAL CONCESSIONARY FINANCING FOR MUTUALLY-AGREED PROJECTS. THIS WAS REJECTED BY BELGIAN SIDE ON GROUNDS THAT BELGIAN LAW WOULD NOT PERMIT SUCH DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR ANY IDIVIDUAL TRADING PARTNER.

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3. NEW TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT AT SOVIET INITIATIVE APPEARS TO REPRESENT COSMETIC/PUBLIC RELATIONS DEVICE AS MUCH AS EFFORT TO BRING SOVIET BILATERAL ECONOMIC ACCORDS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES INTO STANDARD FORMAT. BELGIANS IN MOSCOW REGARD NEW AGREEMENT AS ADDITION TO BUT NOT WHOLLY REPLACEMENT FOR EARLIER ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WHICH INCLUDED NO TIME LIMIT.
STOESSEL

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